

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. BA 2773

Magi No. 0327734310

DOE    yes x no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic PIKESVILLE ARSENAL POWDER MAGAZINE

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number <sup>38</sup> A Sudbrook Lane Sudbrook Lane, east of Reisterstown Rd. (MD140)    not for publication

city, town Pikesville    vicinity of Councilmanic District 2  
congressional district 3

state Maryland county Baltimore County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>x</u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>x</u> building(s)	<u>x</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>  </u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>x</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<u>x</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>x</u> other: hall

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Kiwanis Club of Pikesville

street & number 4 Sudbrook Lane telephone no.:

city, town Pikesville state and zip code MD 21208

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber GLB 1941

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 165

city, town Towson state MD 21204

**6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

date (along with arsenal) July 29, 1965 x federal x state    county    local

depository for survey records 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

## 7. Description

Survey No.

2773  
BA-2793

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Pikesville Arsenal Powder Magazine is a rectangular building originally constructed with an inner magazine and protected by outer stone walls. The windows occupy spaces shown on the 1930s HABS drawings as "closed up embasures for the defense of the establishment by means of artillery." The drawing notes also that, "The building was formerly lined with wood sidewalls; all fastenings were countersunk and wood-plugged to avoid a possible spark. The pintles are of bronze." It is more likely that the filled in embasures contained lightly attached stone or brick infill that would blow out in case of an explosion leaving the main walls standing, a method of building displayed at the historic duPont powder works on ther Brandywine at the Hagely Museum near Wilmington, Delaware.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Title to parcel 7 as shown on the attached plat is vested in the Kiwanis Club of Pikesville, Inc. The description is as follows:

Beginning for the same at a pipe set 240 feet from the end of the second line of a tract of land described in a deed dated February 25, 1819 from James Smith, physician of Baltimore County to United States of America and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City in Liber W.G. No. 150 folio 197 thence from this beginning and running South 46 degrees 45 minutes 15 seconds East 297.11 feet to the Northwesterly side of Sudbrook Lane 50 feet wide as laid out on Plat No. 54 - 199 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Plat Book 15 C folio 349 thence along the northwesterly side of said Lane by a curve to the Southwest with a radius of 3025 feet a distance of 72.23 feet subtended by a chord South 32 degrees 41 minutes 53 seconds East 72.23 feet thence South 32 degrees 00 minutes 59 seconds West 186.25 feet to a pipe thence leaving said Lane North 34 degrees 12 minutes

Containing 1.510 acres of land more or less.

# Maryland Historical Trust/ National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

2773  
BA 2793  
MHT Inventory No.

name of property:

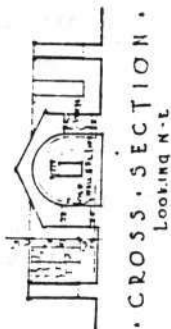
Pikesville Arsenal:  
Powder Magazine

Section number 7 Page 2

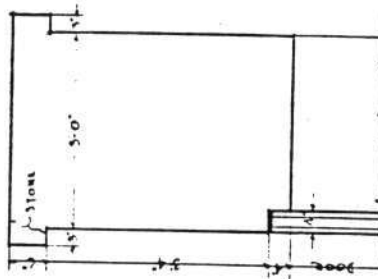


R-E ELEVATION  
INSIDE OF WALL

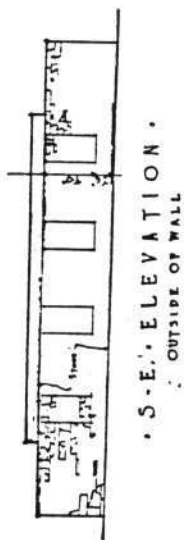
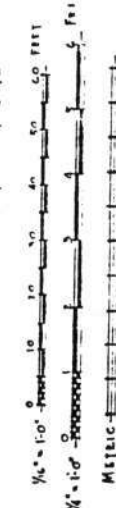
THE BUILDING WAS FORMERLY LISTED  
WITH WOOD SHEDS, CEILING  
AND FLOOR. ALL FASTENINGS  
WELL CONSIDERED AND WOOD  
PLUGGED TO AVOID A POSSIBLE  
SPARK. THE PINNLES ARE OF  
BLONDE.



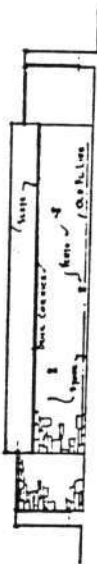
CROSS SECTION  
Looking N-E



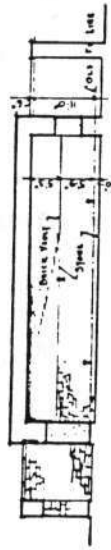
WALL SECTION-AT-DATE



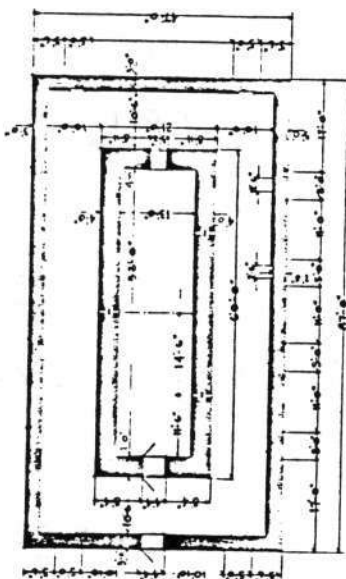
S-E ELEVATION  
OUTSIDE OF WALL



S-E ELEVATION  
INSIDE OF WALL

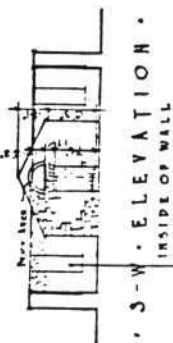


LONGITUDINAL SECTION



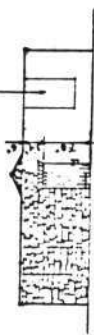
PLAN

POWDER MAGAZINE  
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

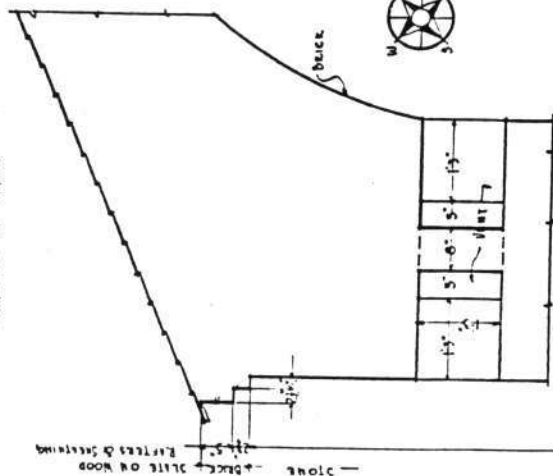


S-W ELEVATION  
INSIDE OF WALL

PROBABLE CLOSED UP ENTAILMENTS  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ESTAB-  
LISHMENT BY MEANS OF ARTILLERY



S-W ELEVATION  
OUTSIDE OF WALL



X-SC SECTION-AT-CORNICE

L. B. B. & S. Co.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICIAL PROJECT 265-6907  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF STRUCTURE  
OLD U.S. ARSENAL  
PIKESVILLE, BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

SHEET NO.  
MD. 14

"HISTORIC AMERICAN"  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 14 OF 14

## 8. Significance

Survey No. BA 2793 <sup>2773</sup>

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	___ education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

Level of Significance: \_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The U.S. Arsenal was started on land purchased from Dr. James Smith in 1815 at what would four years later be named Pikesville. Dr. Smith saw real estate possibilities for his property along the busy Baltimore and Reisterstown Turnpike Road and named the village for General Zebulon Pike who had discovered Pike's Peak a few years before. The U.S. Government was building nine arsenals in various parts of the country to have weapons stored well inland from the reach of foreign invaders and hostile gunfire from enemy ships.

Pikesville, Albany, and Pittsburgh arsenals were also intended to be laboratories for developing and manufacturing weapons. The main buildings were fairly elegant, befitting a permanent post. Two Pikesville buildings were dedicated in 1820.

The American State Papers (Volume 17) published at Washington in 1834, contain statistics about the "Arsenal near Baltimore," which was "purchased June 18, 1816" at a cost of \$895.13. Expenditures for building peaked in 1817:

1816	\$18,327.86
1817	62,775.47
1818	2,045.95.

Items found in the inventories were tubes, fuzees, portfines, slow match (in pounds), pig-lead, rammers and sponges, worms and grape shot, ladles, powder horns, 24-pound cannon balls, and two unservicable 24-pound iron cannon. Bulk materials, probably stored in the magazine, included:

35,502	pounds	Cannon Powder
12,073	"	Musket Powder
8,001	"	Nitre, refined
1,450	"	Sulphur (pages 496, 488, 500, 502, 510).

Maryland Historical Trust/  
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

2773  
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MHT Inventory No.

name of property: Pikesville Arsenal: Powder Magazine

Section number 8 Page 2

The arsenal complex continued in military use until 1879. The surplus base was offered to the State of Maryland and in 1880 the General Assembly accepted the offer. Several years later, the Baltimore Morning Herald of March 19, 1888, reported in a story entitled, "In Vacant Barracks," that a magazine and laboratory were located beyond the compound and there signal rockets, cartridges, and shells were filled. An explosion took one life in 1831 when fire-works were being prepared for the Fourth of July. At times some 60 tons of powder was in storage at the magazine. The Herald noted of the laboratories, "Here experiments of all sorts have been hazarded, and old jars of chemicals bear silent testimony to the busy brains and skillful hands which were engaged in trying to concoct new instruments of death with which fellow-men might be slain."

The State of Maryland developed the arsenal complex as a home for indigent Confederate veterans; this use continued until 1932, when only two veterans survived and were housed elsewhere. The buildings were used by various health and civic agencies until the late 1940s, when an elaborate restoration turned the site into a headquarters for the Maryland State Police, who continue there today, along with a cadet training program and an underground emergency preparedness center known as MEMA.

The powder magazine was located at the eastern end of the property and was presumably built soon after the 1815 purchase of the property.

During the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration's Historic American Buildings Survey produced measured drawings of the powder magazine and other structures of the arsenal. The magazine drawing is signed by L. Ewald, Jr., but is not dated.

In 1940, the magazine parcel, described as Lot 7, was sold to the Kiwanis Club of Pikesville with some reversionary clauses. That civic group put a new roof on the building and removed the inner magazine walls to turn the old storage building into useful meeting space (Deeds GLB 1941:165).



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 2773  
2793

Susanne Moore, National Register Form, "U.S. Arsenal at Pikesville,"  
Maryland Historical Trust, December 1980.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.510Quadrangle name Cockeysville, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24,000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Tax Map 78, Grid 3, Parcel P421. Also verbal description of  
Lot No. 7, appended.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
None			
state	code	county	code
None			

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrainorganization Office of Planningdate November 29, 1996street & number 401 Bosley Avenuetelephone (410) 887-3495city or town Towsonstate MD 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by  
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated  
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and  
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of  
individual property rights.

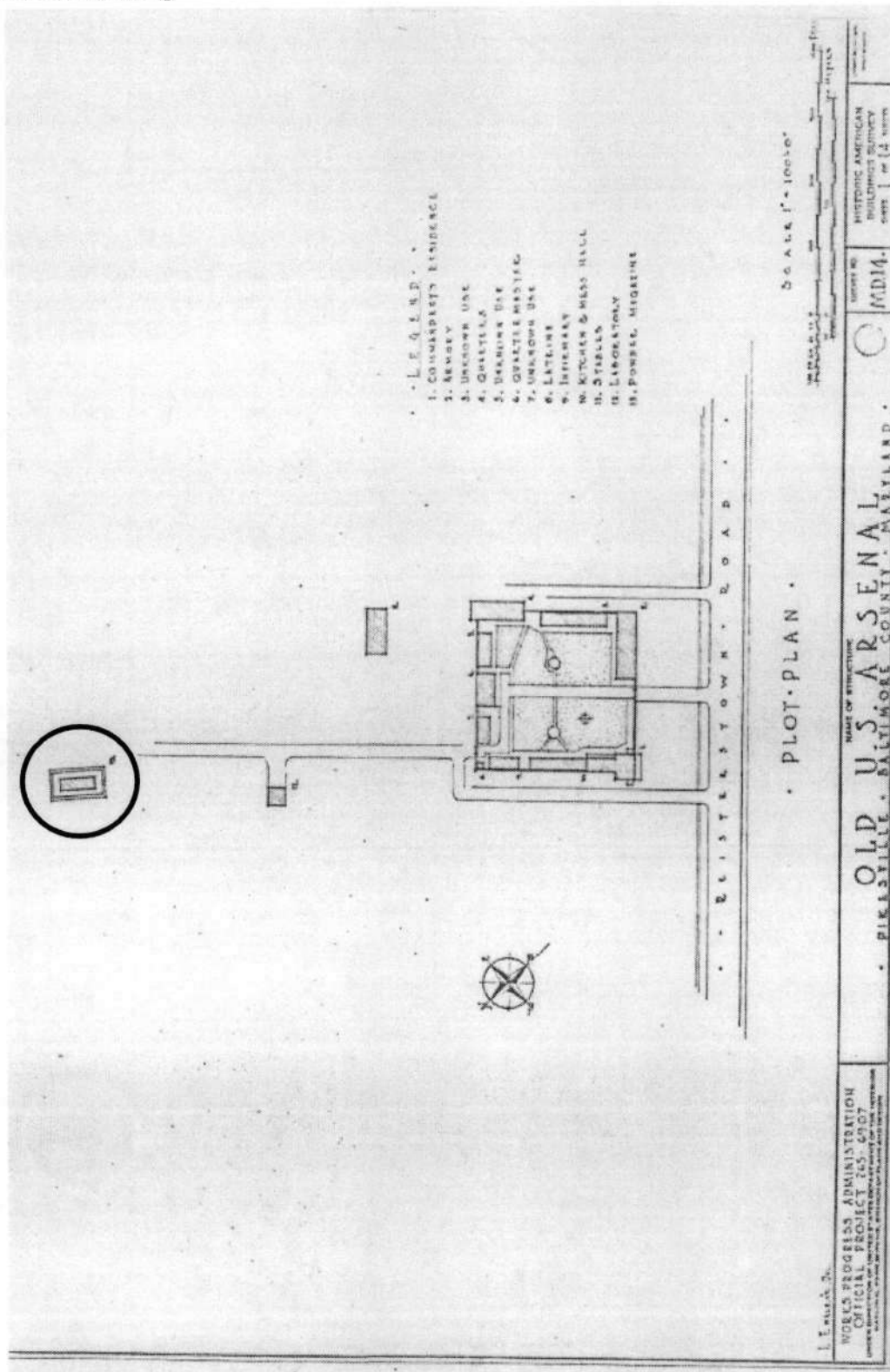
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

BA-2773

Pikesville Arsenal Powder Magazine

Sudbrook Lane, east of Reisterstown Road (MD 140), Pikesville

HABS drawing

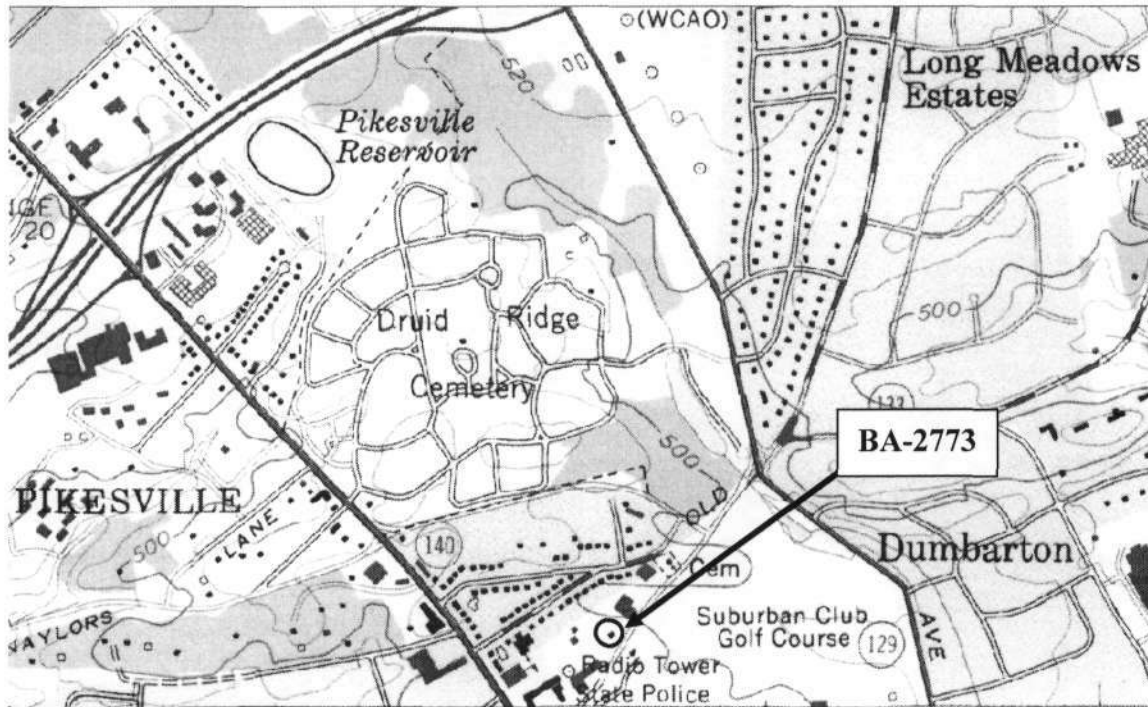


BA-2773

Pikesville Arsenal Powder Magazine

Sudbrook Lane, east of Reisterstown Road (MD 140), Pikesville

Reisterstown quadrangle



Google Earth image, c. 2007

Tax Map 78, p. 421







BA-2773

Pikesville Arsenal and Powder Magazine

Baltimore County, MD

Stacy Patterson

September 3, 2002

MD SHPD

Facade SW

1 of 3



BA- 2773

Pineville Arsenal and Powder magazine  
Baltimore County, MD

Stacy Patterson

September 3, 2008

MD SHPO

Elevation NW

2 of 3





BA-2773

Pinesville Arsenal and Powder magazine

Baltimore County, MD

Stacy Patterson

September 3, 2008

MD SHPD

Elevation 5' 6"

3 of 3